

COUNTRY DATA: UNITED KINGDOM: Information from the CIA World

INTRODUCTION

The United Kingdom has historically played a leading role in developing parliamentary democracy and in advancing literature and science. At its zenith in the 19th century, the British Empire stretched over one-fourth of the earth's surface. The first half of the 20th century saw the UK's strength seriously depleted in two World Wars and the Irish republic withdraw from the union. The second half witnessed the dismantling of the Empire and the UK rebuilding itself into a modern and prosperous European nation. As one of five permanent members of the UN Security Council, a founding member of NATO, and of the Commonwealth, the UK pursues a global approach to foreign policy. The UK is also an active member of the EU, although it chose to remain outside the Economic and Monetary Union. The Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales, and the Northern Ireland Assembly were established in 1999. The latter was suspended until May 2007 due to wrangling over the peace process, but devolution was fully completed in March 2010.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Western Europe, islands including the northern one-sixth of the island of Ireland between the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea, northwest of France
Area	243,610 sq km
Climate	temperate; moderated by prevailing southwest winds over the North Atlantic Current; more than one-half of the days are overcast
Natural Resources	coal, petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, lead, zinc, gold, tin, limestone, salt, clay, chalk, gypsum, potash, silica sand, slate, arable land
Total Renewable Water Resources	160.6 cu km (2005)
Freshwater Withdrawal	total: 11.75 cu km/yr (22%/75%/3%) per capita: 197 cu m/yr (1994)
Natural Hazards	winter windstorms; floods
Environmental Issues	continues to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (has met Kyoto Protocol target of a 12.5% reduction from 1990 levels and intends to meet the legally binding target and move toward a domestic goal of a 20% cut in emissions by 2010); by 2005 the government reduced the amount of industrial and commercial waste disposed of in landfill sites to 85% of 1998 levels and recycled or composted at least 25% of household waste, increasing to 33% by 2015

PEOPLE

Population	62,348,447 (July 2010 est.)
Ethnic Groups	white (of which English 83.6%, Scottish 8.6%, Welsh 4.9%, Northern Irish 2.9%) 92.1%, black 2%, Indian 1.8%, Pakistani 1.3%, mixed 1.2%, other 1.6% (2001 census)
Religions	Christian (Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist) 71.6%, Muslim 2.7%, Hindu 1%, other 1.6%, unspecified or none 23.1% (2001 census)

Languages	English note: the following are recognized regional languages: Scots (about 30% of the population of Scotland), Scottish Gaelic (about 60,000 in Scotland), Welsh (about 20% of the population of Wales), Irish (about 10% of the population of Northern Ireland), Cornish (some 2,000 to 3,000 in Cornwall)
Literacy Rate	99%
Major Infectious Diseases	HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: 77,000 (2007 est.)
GOVERNMENT	
Type	constitutional monarchy and Commonwealth realm
Independence	12 April 1927 (Royal and Parliamentary Titles Act establishes current name of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); notable earlier dates: 927 (minor English kingdoms united); 3 March 1284 (enactment of the Statute of Rhuddlan uniting England and Wales); 1536 (Act of Union formally incorporates England and Wales); 1 May 1707 (Acts of Union formally unite England and Scotland as Great Britain); 1 January 1801 (Acts of Union formally unite Great Britain and Ireland as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland); 6 December 1921 (Anglo-Irish Treaty formalizes partition of Ireland; six counties remain part of the United Kingdom as Northern Ireland)
Constitution	unwritten; partly statutes, partly common law and practice
Legal System	based on common law tradition with early Roman and modern continental influences; has nonbinding judicial review of Acts of Parliament under the Human Rights Act of 1998; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	cereals, oilseed, potatoes, vegetables; cattle, sheep, poultry; fish
Industries	machine tools, electric power equipment, automation equipment, railroad equipment, shipbuilding, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, electronics and communications equipment, metals, chemicals, coal, petroleum, paper and paper products, food processing, textiles, clothing, other consumer goods
Import commodities	manufactured goods, machinery, fuels; foodstuffs
Import Partners	Germany 12.87%, US 9.74%, China 8.88%, Netherlands 6.94%, France 6.64%, Belgium 4.86%, Norway 4.84%, Ireland 4.01%, Italy 3.99% (2009)
Export Commodities	manufactured goods, fuels, chemicals; food, beverages, tobacco
Export Partners	US 14.71%, Germany 11.06%, France 8%, Netherlands 7.79%, Ireland 6.89%, Belgium 4.65%, Spain 4% (2009) US 14.71%, Germany 11.06%, France 8%, Netherlands 7.79%, Ireland 6.89%, Belgium 4.65%, Spain 4% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	\$34,200 (2009 est.)
Population below poverty line	14% (2006 est.)

*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

COUNTRY: United Kingdom

General	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	79.8 years
Average number of years in School (in years)	9.5 years
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	\$35,087
Gender Inequality	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	19.6%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	68.8%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	67.8%
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	69.2%
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	82.2%
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	NA
Poverty	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	NA
Empowerment	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	0
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	4%
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	24%

Sustainability	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	90%
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	NA
Population without Access to Water (%)	0%
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	0%
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	.07%
Human Security	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	200
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	NA
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	<5%
Demographics	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	79.6%
Health	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	.1%
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	.3%
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	.2%
Other	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	NA
Population without Electricity (%)	NA

United Kingdom's Public Expenditure

